



5/28/03

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Commissioner, Lottery Bureau

“Mr. Peters was unanimously recommended Tuesday for confirmation as commissioner of the Lottery Bureau by the Senate Government Operations Committee. . . . After interviewing him, the Senate Gaming and Casino Oversight Committee determined Mr. Peters was knowledgeable and recommended him for the position, Mr. Sikkema said. He added that Mr. Peters' years in the Senate prove he is competent and qualified for the position.” (Gongwer: 5/27/03)

- Gary Peters was confirmed by the Senate as Commissioner of the Lottery Bureau [RC 137: 37 yes, 0 no].

Certificate of Need Commission Appointees

- Seven gubernatorial appointees to the Certificate of Need Commission were confirmed by the Senate [RC 136: 38 yes, 0 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 234 (Hammerstrom)

SB 234 would alter the current process by which the State regulates Blue Cross/Blue Shield and other health benefit carriers. It is an attempt to amend current law in a manner that would be more conducive to the needs of nonprofit health care corporations, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 2 (S-3) was adopted [no RC].
- Several George amendments were either defeated or withdrawn [no RC].
- A couple of George amendments to S-3 were adopted [no RC].
- SB 234 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 234 passed [RC 138: 35 yes, 2 no (Jelinek, George)].

SB 236 (Hammerstrom)

SB 236 would permit Blue Cross/Blue Shield to use an application form for long-term coverage that was designed to elicit the complete health history of an applicant. It would also allow a health care corporation to charge a different rate based on age for the same long-term care coverage.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- JACOBS 1A was [RC].
- SB 236 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 236 passed [RC 139: 37 yes, 1 no (George)].

SB 237 (Stamas)

The bill would require Blue Cross/Blue Shield to establish, and offer to provide or include, prescription drug coverage.

Support: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Coalition for Health Insurance Market Reform (CHIMR) is made up of 140 chamber of commerce and trade associations. Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Chamber of Commerce

- Hammerstrom 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 1A was withdrawn.
- JACOBS 1B was [RC]. This changes the sunset date from 7/1/06 to 12/1/06.
- SB 237 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 237 passed [RC 140: 38 yes, 0 no].

SB 238 (JACOBS)

The bill would permit Blue Cross/Blue Shield to enter into contracts with health care facilities in Michigan or health facilities in any other jurisdiction. Currently law permits Blue Cross/Blue Shield to enter into contracts with health care facilities, but does not specify the location of those facilities.

- Hammerstrom 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 1A was adopted [no RC]. This would end the pilot project on September 30, 2006 (instead of July 1, 2006).
- SB 238 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 238 passed [RC 141: 38 yes, 0 no].

SB 460 (Patterson)

SB 460 attempts to stabilize the small employer group market by improving competition, increasing access, and making health insurance more affordable for small businesses and sole proprietorships. The Bill allows small group carriers to divide the state up into geographical areas for the purpose of adjusting rates for health benefit plans.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated [no RC].
- Patterson 2 (S-3) was adopted [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 2A was adopted [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 2B was adopted [no RC].
- George 2C was defeated [no RC].
- George 2D was defeated [no RC].
- George 2E was withdrawn.
- Garcia 2F was adopted [RC].
- Garcia 2G was withdrawn.
- SB 460 was moved to 3rd Reading.

- SB 236 passed [RC 142: 34 yes, 4 no (GOP)].

THIRD READING

SB 509 (Gilbert)

The bill would require a driver who accumulated seven points on his or her driving record within a two-year period to pay a \$100 driver responsibility fee. For each additional point above seven, the driver would be assessed an additional \$50.

The bill could generate up to \$124.7 million to the State General Fund if 100% of the amount billed were collected.

- Committee 1 (amends) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 509 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4257 (Palmer)

The bill would allow a person to perform beach maintenance activities on Great Lakes lands without a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Support: Save our Shoreline, Individual Shoreline Property and Business Owners, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, West Michigan Tourist Association, Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan Association of Realtors, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Michigan Hotel, Motel, and Resort Association.

Oppose: DEQ, MI United Conservation Clubs, MEC, League of Conservation Voters, Clean Water Action, USEPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Lone Tree Council, Sierra Club, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

- Committee 1 (S-5) was defeated [no RC].
- Barcia 1 (S-7) was adopted [no RC].
- HB 4257 was moved to 3rd Reading.

RESOLUTIONS

SR 71 (Gilbert)

SCR 21 (Gilbert)

Resolutions memorializing Congress to include funding for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services.

“ . . . Military commanders around the world rely on the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) to verify the need to approve leave for military personnel, and to provide financial support to enable them to return home when necessary . . . ”

- SR 71 was adopted [no RC].
- SCR 21 was adopted [no RC].

SR 87 (Van Woerkom)

A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to continue providing assistance to Michigan to help eradicate bovine tuberculosis.

“Bovine tuberculosis is an infectious disease that poses a significant risk to domestic livestock, wildlife, companion animals, and humans throughout the world. Bovine tuberculosis has many severe impacts beyond the disease itself. It increases costs, limits markets for livestock producers nationally and internationally, depresses interest in the state’s hunting and tourism industries, and requires state resources for its eradication. These factors have impacted the families of northeastern Lower Michigan significantly.”

- SR 87 was adopted [no RC].

SR 88 (PRUSI)

A resolution to memorialize the United States Department of Agriculture to adopt the proposed regulation allowing Michigan to be designated as having split-state status with regard to bovine tuberculosis.

“ . . . The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has issued a draft rule that would allow Michigan to have a split-state status designation for bovine tuberculosis. If this rule were to become finalized, it would allow the state of Michigan to have two distinct zones under the national bovine tuberculosis eradication effort, setting the standard for federally recognized bovine tuberculosis zones both nationally and internationally; and Whereas, Split-state zoning and the recognition of that zoning by other states will reduce the testing and movement burdens on most of Michigan’s livestock producers in what would be the Modified Accredited Advanced Status area, and allow the state of Michigan to focus its resources more directly on the area where the disease has been found . . . ”

- SR 88 was adopted [no RC].

SR 89 (Allen)

A resolution to memorialize Congress to enact legislation to support research, development, and construction of the Interstate Traveler Project.

“The Interstate Traveler Project is an elevated maglev (magnetic levitation) rail mass transit system that is based upon a conduit cluster concept powered by hydrogen and solar power. The project promises to provide travelers with a clean, quiet, safe, reliable mode of transportation. The intent of the project is to create the world’s first switchable maglev rail network that will provide interurban/intercity pedestrian, automobile, and light freight transit services. The project will simultaneously produce, store, and distribute hydrogen, which will not only serve as an alternative energy source, but also give Michigan’s automakers the incentive to produce hydrogen internal combustion engines, fuel cell cars, and the manufacturing opportunity to build maglev rail cars.”

- SR 89 was adopted [no RC].